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SECRETARY CHRISMAN COMMENDS DECISION TO RETAIN SAN LUIS OBISPO CCC CENTER

California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman said today he was pleased that the California Conservation Corps has announced it will keep its San Luis Obispo residential center open.

"This is great news, and CCC Director Wes Pratt and I look forward to the Corps' continuing presence on the Central Coast," Secretary Chrisman said. "The CCC does vital natural resource work throughout San Luis Obispo County – this is evident from the dozens of support letters I've received from local agencies."

Secretary Chrisman said that due to budget cuts, the Corps had planned to reduce its statewide operations to five residential centers and had slated to close its Los Padres Center in San Luis Obispo July 1. However, after recently completing a budget analysis that time constraints last fall did not allow, the CCC has indicated it can retain its San Luis Obispo facility. The decision is aided by the CCC's reduced expenditures statewide and the strong potential for local fee-for-service work for its crews.

Secretary Chrisman said 65 residential corpsmembers will be based at the CCC facility, with an additional 15 nonresidential corpsmembers hired locally. Another 30 corpsmembers will work out of Santa Maria.

The California Conservation Corps hires young men and women for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. The Los Padres Center has provided thousands of hours of local conservation work and sent crews to help out after the

Southern California fires last fall. Corpsmembers were also dispatched to assist after the San Simeon earthquake In Paso Robles last December.

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